

worker rights and civil rights. From defending the rights of Thai garment workers to protecting low-wage workers against abuses, Secretary Su has worked tirelessly to help people and communities that might not otherwise have access to justice. This sense of fairness and the desire to fight injustice will be critical for the Department of Labor, particularly as the Department works to address the pandemic's disproportionate impact on women and minorities.

Given her proven track record and commitment to worker and fair labor rights, I have every confidence that Secretary Su will protect all sectors of our workforce and will work to lift everyone from this pandemic. Moreover, her experience in managing labor policy at the executive level for the State of California over the last decade will enable Secretary Su to hit the ground running immediately after she is confirmed.

In particular, through the COVID-19 pandemic, Secretary Su has dealt with the overwhelming demand for assistance from workers who are suffering or who are unemployed. She has helped her State combat the organized crime attacks and employment fraud that have affected all 50 States, including, of course, California, with its large economy. She has worked to address systemic shortcomings that bad actors have exploited during this pandemic. Secretary Su led an effort to stop fraudulent actors from taking advantage of the unemployment system, dating back to the beginning of the pandemic, and the State of California has already begun prosecuting these offenders. The U.S. Department of Labor ultimately advised all States to take the same steps Secretary Su took in order to cut down on fraudulent claims.

Despite the many challenges brought on by the pandemic, Secretary Su has never lost sight of her ultimate goal: to provide millions of workers access to unemployment benefits and other assistance. In these economic times, Secretary Su's leadership skills and proven track record of experience and effectiveness are just what we need.

Her nomination also proves something I believe deeply: When you look for the most qualified person, you get diversity, and when you prioritize diversity, you get the most qualified people—people who reflect all of America and who are able to serve all of America.

Secretary Su's nomination is supported by many who see their stories reflected in hers, including labor leaders from the AFL-CIO and SEIU, business leaders from the Small Business Majority, and civil rights leaders from the National Women's Law Center and the National Employment Law Project.

Secretary Su will be an outstanding Deputy Secretary of Labor. I am proud to support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, today's workers are really struggling through one of the most unequal economic crises in modern American history. With millions out of a job and millions more struggling to get by, it is clear that workers need a Deputy Secretary of Labor who is committed to building back a stronger, fairer economy. They need someone who will work diligently to make sure workers have a fair and just workplace, a livable wage, a secure retirement, safe working conditions, access to accommodations, and are treated with dignity and respect, which is why I am so glad to support Julie Su's nomination.

As a labor lawyer, Julie Su fought to defend Thai garment workers who were trafficked into the United States and forced to work behind barbed wire and under armed guard. Then she pushed to change the law to make sure corporations were held responsible for working conditions in their supply chains.

As California labor commissioner, Julie Su cracked down on wage theft and launched a multilingual campaign to help workers understand their rights and feel safe about speaking up about employers who stole their wages.

As California's secretary of labor, Julie Su has implemented increases to the State minimum wage, created good-paying, high-quality jobs, expanded access to benefits for gig workers and workers who are paid low wages, and protected essential workers who are bearing the brunt of this pandemic.

It is clear that her experience in leading one of the largest State labor departments in the Nation, her decades-long commitment to fighting for workers' rights, and her personal story as the multilingual daughter of Chinese immigrants have given her the experience, background, and values to be a successful Deputy Secretary of Labor.

She is the right person for the job, and I urge our colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her because, right now, too many workers still lack crucial protections and rights and struggle to make ends meet, especially women, workers of color, LGBTQ workers, migrant workers, and workers with disabilities.

To build back an economy that works for everyone, not just the biggest corporations and wealthiest individuals, it is critical that we have a fully staffed Department of Labor and leaders who are committed to protecting workers. So it is critical that we confirm Julie Su as Deputy Secretary of Labor without delay.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON SU NOMINATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask for the vote that is scheduled at 2:30 to begin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, will the Senate advise and consent to the Su nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 256 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Braun	Inhofe	Young
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions from further consideration of the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO ZAILA AVANT-GARDE

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I am here to talk about two things.

First, let me give a heartfelt congratulations to Zaila Avant-garde, this incredible—if we can get the poster up—14-year-old young lady, who just won the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

She is Louisiana's first winner and is the first African-American winner of this spelling bee. She dominated, getting words that I don't think any of the rest of us would have been able to spell.

By the way, I should also note that she holds a Guinness World Record for dribbling. I am told there is a YouTube video of her dribbling and, at the same time, juggling basketballs that is incredible to watch.

She has a bright future. Zaila shows that hard work and dedication bring success.

This week, Senator JOHN KENNEDY and I introduced a resolution congratulating Zaila. And Zaila, if you are watching, if you want to do it, when you are a little bit older and you want to do an internship in a Senate office in the U.S. Senate, please give me a call. Believe me, I will remember you.

And if you wish to do that internship, we are here to encourage you as you embark on the rest of your life, a life that is going to be incredibly successful.

ENERGY POLICY

Madam President, we have to talk about the White House's hypocritical and backward energy policy that is putting a target on American workers.

The Biden administration is happy to cancel U.S. pipelines and kill the jobs pipelines create, putting people in Louisiana and elsewhere in the Nation out of business, justifying it by saying this is how we lower greenhouse gas emissions. Yet they then greenlight a Russian pipeline into Germany when the emissions that come from Russian gas far exceed the emission profile of gas that is produced in Louisiana or elsewhere in our country. By the way, it also creates Russian jobs while simultaneously we are killing American jobs.

Then let's look at gas prices, which are now much higher than they were. The Biden administration is working to put a pause on oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico, but they are pleading with OPEC to increase OPEC production, saying we need more oil shipped to the United States to lower gas prices.

Just last week, the President's Press Secretary said the administration is encouraging OPEC countries to reach agreements to increase production

while they are simultaneously stymieing U.S. production and the U.S. jobs that go along with the production of U.S. oil and gas.

And it just begs the question: The administration is helping Russians and the Russian economy; they are helping OPEC nations and workers in OPEC; why don't we think about helping American workers? It just cannot be understood.

I am demanding; we are demanding; we are pleading not with OPEC but with the administration to leave our jobs and the livelihoods of Louisiana workers and American workers alone.

Let's just speak about the Louisiana industry. The oil and gas industry in Louisiana is a major economic and industrial force, a force for good, and the benefits from the environmental perspective must be stated. The United States is a global leader in decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, and this happened because of increased production of U.S. natural gas. We simultaneously became a net exporter of energy, helping other nations lower their emission profile as well. But what we have seen in the last few months, you would not understand that.

As I mentioned earlier, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline and 11,000 jobs with it, but, again, Russian pipelines are OK. The administration removed sanctions from Russia, clearing the way for the construction of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline—cementing, by the way, Europe's reliance upon Russian gas. Again, Russian gas, the production of it, emits far more greenhouse gas emissions than the production of American and Louisiana natural gas.

It is almost, if you will, a quadruple whammy: weakening U.S. security, increasing global greenhouse gas emissions, increasing gas prices, and killing American jobs. That is what this administration's policies have been doing. It begs the question: Why don't we green-light U.S. pipelines as opposed to green-lighting Russian pipelines?

Americans across the country, every time they fill up their tanks, feel these punches, and they are tired of it. The average price of gasoline has now been over \$3 a gallon since May, clocking in at \$3.15 as of today, and it is only going up—expected that gas prices will rise another 10 to 20 cents through the end of August. Louisiana is a bit luckier. Because of our position as an energy powerhouse, the gas prices here at home are still averaging about \$2.75—not going down anytime soon.

While the administration is actively trying to kill domestic energy jobs, they are working to increase production of oil overseas—again, asking the OPEC cartel to increase production so there is more oil to lower gas prices. Why don't we just produce more oil in the United States of America?

The administration says that they are killing jobs in the United States because of carbon emissions, but when

you produce oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico and you bring it to our shores, it has the lowest emissions profile of any oil and gas that we use in our country. You almost have to ask, what is it about the U.S. oil and gas worker that the administration doesn't like?

In 2019—just speaking about Louisiana—in 2019, oil and gas operations supported nearly 250,000 Louisiana jobs, about 1 out of every 9 jobs in my State. The oil and gas industry provided \$73 billion to the State's gross domestic product, more than a quarter. Through taxes alone, it accounted for \$4.5 billion going directly to coastal restoration, environmental improvement projects, schools, infrastructures, roads—you name it—making life better for the citizens of my State.

It has been only 6 months of the Biden administration, but every day, that target on the back of an oil and gas worker and on their family's future gets bigger and bigger and bigger.

One more time, let me say in conclusion, the Biden administration's working against U.S. oil and gas production is making other countries stronger; it is making us weaker. It weakens America's security, it increases global greenhouse gas emissions, it increases gas prices, and it kills jobs. We need better policy for our country, for my State, and for our workers.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

CUBA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to speak about a topic I spoke about before, and that is our policy toward Cuba. I couldn't help but think, as I look at the Cubans protesting in the street, especially as I see so many people in the streets in places where both my wife Marcelle and I have walked, and actually our granddaughter Sophia, where we know a number of the people there, and we see them protesting, it hits twice as hard. They are demanding greater freedom and economic opportunity. This illustrates a widespread hardship and hunger and the need for fundamental change in Cuba.

Human rights are universal. Cuban people are no different from people anywhere in the world. They want to be able to speak freely. They don't want fear of retribution.

We have been told that the Biden administration is conducting a review of the Trump administration's policy. It is the Trump administration's policy toward Cuba which is now in effect. There is nothing unusual about that review. New administrations regularly conduct such reviews. But it is now mid-July, and the key question that needs to be answered is not very complicated.

It is axiomatic that we have profound disagreements with the Cuban Government. They have held power since 1959. They have held power by outlawing opposition political parties. Dissent is often punished with physical abuse and